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March 26, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: Winston Lord
SUBJECT: Guidance for Sino-U.S. Meeting

The six basic principles which are to serve as a basis for progress to a higher level meeting are clearly loaded in China's favor. The first three are about Taiwan which is their primary concern. The fourth one is neutral. The fifth one is neutral, but we point out that we have already taken unilateral steps in this area. The sixth addresses China's five principles on peaceful coexistence.

If you are interested in getting some balance into these principles you could do some or all of the following:

-- Combine the first two principles into one. They are closely related: the first one says that the Taiwan/Mainland relationship is to be decided by those parties directly concerned and in a peaceful manner; the second says that we will not interfere with any peaceful settlement which the parties may reach.

-- Drop the third principle which commits us to reduce our military presence on Taiwan as tensions in the area diminish. Instead of making this a principle we could include it under the further discussion in our statement (e.g., page 5).

-- Add a new principle on relaxation of tensions in the Far East along the following lines: "It is in the interest of the United States and the Peoples Republic of China to explore ways in which misunderstandings and tensions in the Far East could be reduced."

I am no China expert and I have not been following closely the carefully nuanced communications with the Chinese, so I may be off base in my suggestions. However, I think they would provide a better balanced set of principles as a framework for a higher level meeting in Peking.

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